

Dorchester, Apr. 4.

1848.

Dear Garrison,

Thank you for enclosed. I am glad Powell writes in so good a temper, wh., (dpite of what Powell says of him,) W. P. never can manage to do. But there is a tone of superiority, & judicial opinion, about his ^{note}, which is very amusing. —

His charge against you of mis-representing the Am^r. A S Socy, abroad & at home, is singularly at variance with all I have read of your public remarks for two years past. Beyond your known position on that subject, — which is what they feel more than any words, — you have, so far as I have read (& that has been I suppose nearly or quite all that has been published,) been eminently and uncommonly fair & generous in dealing with them, individually and as a whole.

Powell grossly misrepresents your position, — I take it, — mine he certainly does, —

When he alleges that we have ever said
or thought that the "Republican party"
(-or any party or sect or society-) is to be
trusted with the great questions still in
controversy, & with the constitutional
enactment of great principles. We
are the allies & dependents of no
party. What we say is that
"the Country", "the Nation", "the People",
as a whole, are to be trusted with
all these great questions, they having
accepted them, confessed their primary
& essential importance, & engrafted them
leading one of all, individual manhood
& citizenship, in the Constitution & Law.
- We are to act ^{all} as the people, with
the people, & thro' all available
public channels of influence; - and
it is the "madness of the moon", or
else the exaggerated idea of self-consequence,
which alone, in my judgment, insists
on the need of an "Antislavery Society"
& operations. They have however the

perfect right to elect & follow their
own measures & methods, — which I
have never called in question; — but
they have no right to assail the
characters & moral intent of those
who differ from them, — nor, to deny
any of them who has been thus assailed
a hearing; — and ^{both of} these ^{are} what they
have done, & were the first to do.

Then ^{when} we respectfully ~~ask~~ demand
(& as in your case, yet,) a hearing,
& make a thorough & unanswerable
defence, — then the talk is (as of
the silly woman I quoted to you yesterday)
— "Oh, these people have been so long used
to pommel somebody, that, now they
can find no other object for their talents,
they turn to pommelling one"! Heaven
safe us from such intelligences and
such sense as that!

Truly Yr

I hadn't time to tell
you yesterday that I had
said to Mr. Sewall I sh^d be glad of his advice as to the
next best step. He advised that we do nothing until the
N. E. Branch had made its application & demand, which

S. May Jr.

lose no time, & don't
they should be strongly advised

